

To the Judicial Committee Members

Concerns regarding House Bill #5488

On 1/1/07 the worst words a parent will hear in their lifetime became a reality when we were told our oldest son had been killed in an auto accident. He left behind his wife, five children, his younger brother my husband and me. His life was taken from us all by Michael Knybel inmate number 260294, who was driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

This was his fourth DUI and he was out of jail as a result of an early release program for "good behavior". His driver's license was suspended and he was using his son's driver's license.

It took us three years to obtain a conviction in the court system. It involved two different prosecutors, two judges, one defense attorney and one public defender. In those three years we were in court almost every month. We are less than satisfied with the results. It is obvious to us that Michael Knybel exhibits nothing but disrespect for the laws that society lives by.

It is our belief that programs such as RREC just re-enforce this respect for the law by convicted felons. It is another tool for them to obtain a reduced sentence for no reason, again, we, the victims receive no justice, and the "bad guy" benefits. The judicial system is upside down as far as us the victims are concerned. This RREC program is just an example of a step in the wrong direction. Michael Kynbel had a second chance and cost us a loving father, husband, brother and you.

Respectfully,

Joan & Jack Foygan